Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds ~~which is~~ obtained by:

mixing a metal compound having at least three hydrolyzable groups with a given amount of water in the absence of all members selected from the group consisting of an acid, a base, and a dispersion stabilizer and at a given temperature, ~~which dispersoid is characterized in that~~

wherein:

the given amount of water is at least 1.0 mole but less than 2.0 moles per mole of the metal compound, and no other water is added to the dispersoid,

no acid, no base, and no dispersion stabilizer is added to the dispersoid,

the given temperature is a temperature below 0°C, ~~wherein~~ and

a transmittance, expressed as a spectral transmittance measured at a dispersoid concentration of 0.5 wt % of oxide basis, at a quartz cell light path length of 1 cm, using the organic solvent as a control, and at a light wavelength of 550 nm, is 80% to 100%.

2. (Currently Amended) A dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds ~~which is~~ obtained by:

mixing a metal compound having at least three hydrolyzable groups with a given amount of water in the absence of all members selected from the group consisting of an acid, a base, and a dispersion stabilizer and at a given temperature, ~~which dispersoid is characterized in that~~

wherein:

the given amount of water is at least 0.5 mole but less than 1.0 mole per mole of the metal compound, and no other water is added to the dispersoid,

no acid, no base, and no dispersion stabilizer is added to the dispersoid,

the given temperature is a temperature below 0°C, ~~wherein~~ and

a transmittance, expressed as a spectral transmittance measured at a dispersoid concentration of 0.5 wt % of oxide basis, at a quartz cell light path length of 1 cm, using the organic solvent as a control, and at a light wavelength of 550 nm, is 80% to 100%.

3–12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds obtained by:

mixing, in the absence of all members selected from the group consisting of an acid, a base, and a dispersion stabilizer and at a given temperature, a partial hydrolysate that is prepared by hydrolyzing a metal compound having at least three hydrolyzable groups in the absence of all members selected from the group consisting of an acid, a base, and a dispersion stabilizer and that can be stably dispersed without aggregation in an organic solvent with an amount of water equal to at least 0.5 mole but less than 2 moles per mole of the metal compound minus the amount of water used to prepare the partial hydrolysate, ~~which dispersoid is characterized in that~~

wherein:

no other water is added to the dispersoid,

no acid, no base, and no dispersion stabilizer is added to the dispersoid,

the given temperature is a temperature below 0°C, ~~wherein~~ and

a transmittance, expressed as a spectral transmittance measured at a dispersoid concentration of 0.5 wt % of oxide basis, at a quartz cell light path length of 1 cm, using the organic solvent as a control, and at a light wavelength of 550 nm, is 80% to 100%.

14. (Original) The dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds of claim 13 which is characterized in that the given temperature is a temperature of -20°C or below.

15. (Original) The dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds of claim 13 which is characterized in that the given temperature is at or below the temperature at which the metal compound begins to hydrolyze.

16–22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) The dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds of claim 13 which is characterized by being obtained by, following mixture of the partial hydrolysate and the water at the given temperature, raising the temperature to the given temperature or above.

24. (Currently Amended) A dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds ~~which is~~ obtained by:

mixing a metal compound having at least three hydrolyzable groups with a given amount of water in the absence of all members selected from the group consisting of an acid, a base, and a dispersion stabilizer and at a given temperature, ~~which dispersoid is characterized in that~~

wherein:

the given amount of water is a solution diluted with

a hydrocarbon solvent other than an alcohol solvent, and

an alcohol solvent,

the diluted solution is added to the metal compound, ~~and~~

no other water is added to the dispersoid,

no acid, no base, and no dispersion stabilizer is added to the dispersoid,

the given temperature is room temperature, ~~wherein~~ and

a transmittance, expressed as a spectral transmittance measured at a dispersoid concentration of 0.5 wt % of oxide basis, at a quartz cell light path length of 1 cm, using the organic solvent as a control, and at a light wavelength of 550 nm, is 80% to 100%.

25. (Original) The dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds of claim 24 which is characterized in that the given amount of water is at least 0.5 mole but less than 2.0 moles per mole of the metal compound.

26. (Original) The dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds of claim 24 which is characterized in that the water in the diluted solution has a concentration that is from 40% to 1% of the saturation solubility of water in a mixed solvent of the hydrocarbon solvent and the alcohol solvent.

27. (Currently Amended) A dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds ~~which is~~ obtained by the addition, in the absence of all members selected from the group consisting of an acid, a base, and a dispersion stabilizer, to a metal compound having at least three hydrolyzable groups, of at least 0.5 mole but less than 2 moles of water per mole of the metal compound, ~~which dispersoid is characterized by having steps in which~~

wherein:

no other water is added to the dispersoid,

no acid, no base, and no dispersion stabilizer is added to the dispersoid,

the water is added in divided portions at a given temperature, ~~which steps include at least one step in which~~ wherein at least one of the of the divided portions of water is added at ~~the~~ a given temperature that is a temperature below 0°C, ~~wherein~~ and

a transmittance, expressed as a spectral transmittance measured at a dispersoid concentration of 0.5 wt % of oxide basis, at a quartz cell light path length of 1 cm, using the organic solvent as a control, and at a light wavelength of 550 nm, is 80% to 100%.

28. (Currently Amended) A dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds ~~which is~~ obtained by the addition, in the absence of all members selected from the group consisting of an acid, a base, and a dispersion stabilizer, to a metal compound having at least three hydrolyzable groups, of at least 0.5 mole but less than 2 moles of water per mole of the metal compound, ~~which dispersoid is characterized by having steps in which~~

wherein:

the water is added in divided portions,

at least 0.5 mole but less than 1 mole of the water per mole of the metal compound ~~being~~ is added in a first water addition step, ~~wherein~~

no other water is added to the dispersoid,

no acid, no base, and no dispersion stabilizer is added to the dispersoid, and

a transmittance, expressed as a spectral transmittance measured at a dispersoid concentration of 0.5 wt % of oxide basis, at a quartz cell light path length of 1 cm, using the organic solvent as a control, and at a light wavelength of 550 nm, is 80% to 100%.

29. (Original) The dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds of claim 28 which is characterized by having, after the first water addition step, a step in which the rest of the required amount of water is added at a given temperature, the given temperature being a temperature below 0°C.

30–42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently Amended) A dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds ~~which is characterized by dispersing stably without aggregation in an organic solvent, the dispersoid being~~ obtained by:

mixing a metal compound having at least three hydrolyzable groups with at least 0.5 moles but less that 2.0 moles of water per mole of the metal compound in the

absence of all members selected from the group consisting of an acid, a base, and a dispersion stabilizer, ~~and~~

wherein:

the dispersoid ~~having~~ has an average particle size in a range of 1 to 20 nm,

the dispersoid disperses stably without aggregation in an organic solvent,

no other water is added to the dispersoid,

no acid, no base, and no dispersion stabilizer is added to the dispersoid, and

~~wherein~~

a transmittance, expressed as a spectral transmittance measured at a dispersoid concentration of 0.5 wt % of oxide basis, at a quartz cell light path length of 1 cm, using the organic solvent as a control, and at a light wavelength of 550 nm, is 80% to 100%.

44. (Previously Presented) The dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds of claim 43 which is characterized by being monodisperse with a particle size distribution in a range of 0 to 50 nm.

45–53. (Canceled)

54. (Withdrawn) A metal oxide film which is characterized by being formed by coating or spraying, and by having a smooth film surface.

55. (Withdrawn) The metal oxide film of claim 54 which is characterized by being formed by drying at 200°C or below.

56. (Withdrawn) The metal oxide film of claim 54 which is characterized in that the film surface has an average roughness of 10 nm or less.

57. (Canceled)

58. (Withdrawn) A metal oxide film which is characterized by being formed on a plastic substrate and by having a carbon content, expressed as an atomic ratio, of 10% or less.

59–64. (Canceled)

65. (Withdrawn) A monomolecular film which is characterized by being obtained by forming a metal oxide film having a smooth surface on a substrate, then contacting the metal oxide film with a metallic surfactant having at least one hydrolyzable group.

66. (Canceled)

67. (Withdrawn) A monomolecular film characterized by being obtained by using a dispersoid having metal-oxygen bonds that is stably dispersed without aggregation in an organic solvent in the absence of at least one selected from the group consisting of an acid, a base and a dispersion stabilizer, or using a solution containing the dispersoid, to form a metal oxide film on a substrate, then contacting the metal oxide film with a metallic surfactant having at least one hydrolyzable group.

68–70. (Canceled)